

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 04416 011720Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02
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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMCONSUL DURBAN

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4416

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, PIN, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: DETAILS ON ELECTIONS

REF: PRETORIA 4302

1. THE RHODESIAN SUNDAY MAIL OF JULY 23, JUST RECEIVED TODAY,
SETS FORTH FURTHER DETAILS ON REGISTRAR-GENERAL POPE-SIMMOND'S
PROPOSALS FOR THE DECEMBER 4 TO 6 ELECTIONS MENTIONED PARA 3,
REFTEL.

2. ACCORDING TO THIS ACCOUNT, POPE-SIMMONDS STATES THERE WILL
BE THREE SEPARATE PROCESSES AND SOME VOTERS MAY HAVE TO MARK
TWO OR THREE BALLOT PAPERS. THE PROCESSES WILL BE ELECTION
ON THE PARTY LIST SYSTEM OF THE 72 BLACK REPRESENTATIVES
BY ALL CITIZENS 18 YEARS OLD AND OVER; ELECTION OF EIGHT
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PAGE 02 PRETOR 04416 011720Z

WHITES ON A "CANDIDATE LIST" SYSTEM BY ALL CITIZENS 18 YEARS AND OVER;

AND, ELECTION OF 20 OTHER WHITE SEATS BY CONSTITUENCY BY ALL
"NON-AFRICAN CITIZENS OF 21 AND OVER ON THE COMMON ROLE."

3. THE PARTY LIST IS THE LISTING OF ALL REGISTERED PARTIES,
FROM WHICH THE VOTER CHOOSES ONE. THE PARTY THEN NOMINATES

ITS MPS, ACCORDING TO ITS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL VOTE, FROM A LIST OF 72 NAMES PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED TO THE REGISTRAR GENERAL. POPE-SIMMONDS EXPLAINED THE "CANDIDATE LIST" FOR EIGHT WHITE SEATS AS BEING A BALLOT WITH SIXTEEN NOMINEES LISTE, BY NAME, FROM WHICH THE VOTER CHOOSES EIGHT.

FOR THE 20 OTHER WHITE SEATS, THE COUNTRY IS TO BE DIVIDED INTO 20 CONSTITUENCIES. ANY NUMBER OF CANDIDATES CAN RUN IN ANY CONSTITUENCY. THE VOTERS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE CONSTITUENCY LIST THE CANDIDATES IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE. THE WINNER MUST HAVE OVER 50 PERCENT OF THE VOTE IN HIS AREA.

IF NOT, THE CANDIDATE WITH THE LEAST NUMBER OF VOTES WILL BE ELIMINATED. THEN THE VOTES FOR THE SECOND AND THIRD CHOICES ON THE BALLOTS CAST FOR THE ELIMINATED CANDIDATE WILL BE CREDITED TO THOSE SECOND AND THIRD CHOSSES AS FIRST PREFERENCE VOTES. THIS PROCESS CONTINUES UNTIL A CLEAR WINNER EMERGES WITH MORE THAN 50 PERCENT.

5. POPE-SIMMONDS ALSO ANNOUNCED THE DECISION TO HAVE PARTIES REPRESENTED BY SYMBOLS "TO ENABLE THE MORE PRIMITIVE OR SIMPLE VOTER TO SELECT AND MAKE HIS CHOICE KNOWN."

5. HE ALSO SAID THAT "THE SHEER NUMBERS OF PEOPLE INVOLVED MEANS IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO REGISTER THEM IN THE TIME AVAILABLE. POLITICS HAVE DICTATED THAT THE ELECTION WILL BE HELD... WE HAVE NEITHER THE STAFF NOR THE FUNDS FOR SUCH AN EXERCISE." THEREFORE, POPE-SIMMONDS SAID, RHODESIA UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 PRETOR 04416 011720Z

WILL DEPEND ON A SYSTEM OF IDENTIFICATION AT THE POLLS AND MARKING THE VOTERS TO SHOW THEY HAVE VOTED. THE MARKS, HE SAID, WOULD BE APPLIED TO BOTH BLACK AND WHITE AND WOULD BE INDELIBLE. ON THE PROBLEM OF VOTER IDENTIFICATION, POPE-SIMMONDS SAID NON-AFRICANS ARE ALREADY REGISTERED ON THE COMMON ROLL AND BLACK MALES CARRY REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES OR NATIONAL IDENTITY CARDS. BLACK FEMALES WOULD BE THE "PROBLEM", HE SAID, AS THEY HAVE NO IDENTIFICATION. THEY WOULD BE REQUIRED TO SHOW PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP, BIRTH CERTIFICATE OR, FAILING THAT, BE IN THE COMPANY OF A MALE VOTER WHO COULD PROVE THEIR IDENTITY. EDMONDSON

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